March comes in like a lion

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3月のライオン

Chapter 21

A Gift (PART 2)

"I THREW IT AWAY",

DON'T YOU?

I KNOW.

IN SHORT, YOU WANT TO SAY,

The shogi match with Yasui-san that afternoon

EH?

neared its end too quickly.

I DIDN'T REALISE IT UNTIL THE END. TOO BAD, TOO BAD.

BUT...

IF I'D REALISED, I WOULD'VE GONE FOR IT.

AH— YES, YES.

THAT'S TRUE, ISN'T IT?

IT'S FUNNY HOW AFTER THE 8F MOVE, I COULD HAVE STABBED THE KNIGHT IN 9E...

–Rambling on, almost as if to himself,

...Yasui-san's sighs

BUT I REALLY COULDN'T, SO THERE'S NO HELPING IT, IS THERE?

MIGHT HAVE BEEN ABLE TO SEE THROUGH IT...

GUESS THAT YOU

mixed with the smell of alcohol, stirred my heart.

"Think it through". "Think it through".

–But

You could almost hear it in the way he advanced.

"Careful", "Careful".

With the Yagura opening, the early stage of the game began slowly, quietly.

将棋会館

He noticed it too, a split-second too late–

around lunch break, Yasui-san made a wrong move.

SFX: BUNA.... (WHEEZE)

Yasui-san's presence lost strength, and I could see him slackening.

–Just then,

And had he, with the Knight pulled, pressed on, there'd be no telling where the round would go...

–But, no, if the King's head were to be attacked after 8F, we don't know what would happen next.

Wait, stop! Why?

How come?!

Why are you giving up?!

The little girl still said...

Why?!

There are still ways to fight!

Your concentration, your focus...

Don't let go.

your precious family...

don't let it go this easily.

WITH DADDY

FOR CHRISTMAS.

I WANT TO BE

Do something, please!

...

...

I'VE LOST.

THE POST-MORTEM ANALYSIS... LET'S END IT HERE, ALRIGHT?

YOU'LL HAVE TO EXCUSE ME HERE FOR TODAY.

Please don't let go!

X'mas
merry
christmas
NOT HERE...
WHERE IS HE?
YASUI-SAN!!
YASUI-SAN!

The station's in the other direction.

where are you going?

Yasui-san,

There!!

HERE.

UM...

X'mas

SIGN: KANOYASU BAR

YASUI-SAN!

カノヤス

.....

YASUI-SAN!!

OKAY OKAY, YOU PEST.

THAT'S NOT MINE.

I DUNNO WHOSE IT IS.

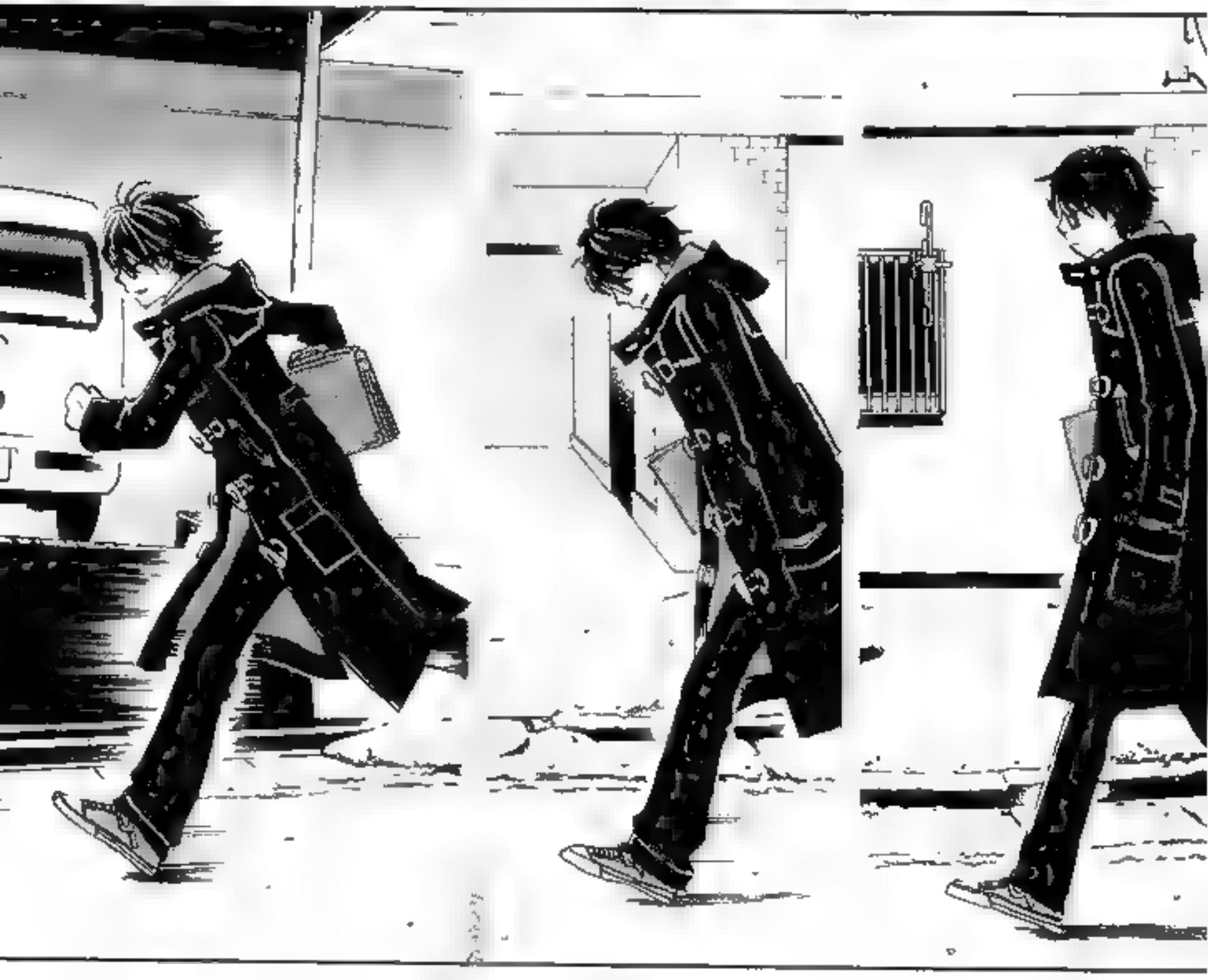
SFX: BA (SNATCH)

SIGH—...

AND THIS WAS THE LAST CHRISTMAS...

SFX: GYU.... (CLENCH...)

体技会館



SIGN· KANNONZAKA

SFX ZAZAZA (WHOOSH)

SFX HA HAA HAA (HUFF HUFF HUFF)

SFX HAA HAA HAA HAA (HUFF HUFF HUFF HUFF)

AAAHHHH—

AAA-
RRGH!!

WHAT WAS
I *SUPPOSED*
TO HAVE
DONE THEN?!

IT'S ALL
MY FAULT?!

I KNOW YOU HAVEN'T!

LEARN FROM THAT!

YOU LOST BECAUSE YOU WERE WEAK!!

IT'S BECAUSE YOU WERE WEAK!!

ARE YOU KIDDING ME!

I'M PUTTING EVERY-THING AT STAKE HERE!

DON'T COME THEN!!

STOP SAYING YOU KNOW BUT YOU CAN'T DO IT!!

I DON'T HAVE TIME FOR WEAKLINGS!!!

DON'T SNEAK OFF AND GET DRUNK!

I MIGHT NOT HAVE ANYTHING BUT SHOGI, SHOGI, AND MORE SHOGI!

no matter what happens because of it...

no matter the misfortune he brings,

I know there's a beast that lives inside me.

IF YOU'RE RUNNING AWAY...!

but the truth is,

I said I had no reason left to fight,

that would pick a fight,

and grasp at the threads keeping himself alive,

A beast that would lash out, bite, and tear apart anything in order to live on,

IF YOU'RE ABLE TO RUN AWAY...

THEN WHY...

Chapter 21 end

NOTES from the scanlators

Page 175

The *Yagura* castle an opening move considered to be the strongest defensive position in shogi. It has a strongly protected king and a well fortified line of pawns, while the bishop, rook, and a pawn all support later attacks by the rook's silver or knight.

Page 176

King's head means the square (or sometimes the area) in front of the king. It is thought to be one of the weakest points of the king.